

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01  
SY-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-03  
INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA:ORM:SCLOWMAN:CAF  
APPROVED BY D/HA:ICHESLAW  
EA/TB - MR. HELBLE  
EA/RA - MR. THOMPSON

-----090131Z 004867 /73

O P 090109Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA  
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: WCRP ACTIVITIES -- LEAP DAL

REF: BANGKOK 7557

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY BANGKOK'S DETAILED REPORT ON MAKEUP OF LEAP DAL PASSENGERS. WCRP SECRETARY GENERAL HOMER JACK HAS CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND STATES WCRP IS PUTTING REPS ABOARD LEAP DAL SHORTLY TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND SURVEYS. JACK'S IMPRESSIONS, HOWEVER, ARE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO EMBASSY'S.

2. EMBASSY CLOSES BY NOTING SYMPATHETICALLY THE PLIGHT  
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OF LEAP DAL REFUGEES BUT ADDS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT NOW BE REWARDED BY CONFERRING UPON THEM CONDITIONAL ENTRY STATUS WHILE OTHERS WITH A LEGITIMATE CLAIM FOR SPECIAL US CONSIDERATION LANGUISH IN REFUGEE CENTERS. THE DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH THIS VIEW.

3. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, REMAINS. SINCE THE LEAP DAL

IS OVER CROWDED AND NOT OVERLY SEAWORTHY, IT IS IMPORTANT THESE PASSENGERS BE REMOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND INEVITABLE THAT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY LEAVE THE LEAP DAL.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN ANY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS DILEMMA BEYOND RETURN OF THESE REFUGEES TO THAILAND. THEY HAVE NO CLAIM TO SPECIAL STATUS ELSEWHERE. IF THE DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCE'S IN WHICH THEY HAVE PLACED THEMSELVES VOLUNTARILY, BUT FROM WHICH THEY CANNOT ALONE EXTRICATE THEMSELVES EVENTUALLY FORCE A THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT SOLUTION UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THIS WOULD BE ARRIVED AT VERY GRUDGINGLY. SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD CERTAINLY NOT ADD TO THE SUM TOTAL OF INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES RESETTLED OUT OF THAILAND. THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY AND IRRITATION GROWING OUT OF SUCH A SOLUTION, ON THE CONTRARY, WOULD LIKELY REDUCE THE TOTAL FLOW OF REFUGEES OUT OF THAILAND. THUS, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE RTG, TO ALLOW THESE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THAILAND WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT WE AND THE UNHCR WILL MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO INCLUDE THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT IN SUCH A PROGRAM.

5. FOR GENEVA: WE UNDERSTAND FROM HOMER JACK THAT UNHCR/BANGKOK HAS MADE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS TO THE RTG, REQUESTING THAT THEY TAKE THE LEAP DAL REFUGEES BACK INTO THAILAND, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. JACK IS OF THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNHCR/BANGKOK HAS LARGELY GIVEN UP ON THIS ISSUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT JACK ALSO DISCUSSED THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER WITH DEPUTY UNHCR MACE. WE BELIEVE UNHCR SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS HARD FOR THE RETURN OF THESE REFUGEES TO THAILAND, STRESSING THE NEGATIVE EFFECT THAT AN INTERNATIONAL BROUHAHA ON THIS SUBJECT COULD HAVE ON THE OVERALL UNHCR EFFORT IN THAILAND.

6. FOR BANGKOK: REQUEST AMBASSADOR DISCUSS THIS MATTER AT APPROPRIATE SENIOR LEVELS WITHIN RTG DRAWING UPON THE DISCUSSION ABOVE. TO URGE THAI COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** SREF, TH  
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**Review Markings:**  
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